

Tony!  
How about

Phil & Bob for this one or do you want  
to be our metrication expert? I definitely  
want someone from RECD to become  
involved.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
National Bureau of Standards  
Washington, D.C. 20234

CENTER FOR BUILDING TECHNOLOGY  
INSTITUTE FOR APPLIED TECHNOLOGY  
ANNOUNCEMENT

FEDERAL WORKSHOPS - BUILDING SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Notes: Please send a Tuesday, May 11, 1976

copy to P&PS Lecture Room B, Administration Building

National Bureau of Standards  
Gaithersburg, Maryland

Thanks  
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METRICATION AND DIMENSIONAL COORDINATION  
IN THE BUILDING INDUSTRY

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Now that President Ford has signed the Metric Act of 1975 (December 23, 1975), the official U.S. commitment to a voluntary conversion to the use of the International System (SI) of Units has been made. For the decentralized building industry, many unique problems and opportunities are presented by the conversion to a metric system of measurement. Some idea of the number and complexities of these problem/opportunities is contained in the realization that the entire data base on which the industry is now operating must be completely rewritten in metric terms. Even the size of the paper on which this data is to be rewritten will be changed.

Perhaps the easiest part of the metrication program may be in learning to use the new SI units. While the simplicity and the coherency of this system is soon appreciated, there are many industry-wide agreements that must be made regarding the SI usage practices to be employed. An opportunity to discuss some of the factors will be afforded at the workshop.

One of the developing problem/opportunity areas is related to the subject of dimensional coordination. Those who have promoted the use of this concept in the United States, and other countries, feel that metrication offers a once-ever opportunity to efficiently introduce this design/manufacturing tool on a national scale. If the U.S. building industry follows the pattern of their counterparts in other English-speaking countries, this subject will become the dominant theme of the industry's metrication program. A description of the projected program of the Center for Building Technology in this area will be made.

Some progress has already been made in preparing for the conversion of building regulations and reference standards in the United States. A description of this national activity will be given and related to international programs bearing on this subject area.

75 YEARS  
NBS

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Federal Workshop Program

Building Science and Technology  
Metrication and Dimensional Coordination  
in the Building Industry

May 11, 1976

8:30	Registration	
8:45	Welcome	H.E. Thompson, Acting Chief Office of Housing and Bldg. Tech.
9:00	Overview: Metrication Problems and Opportunities	James G. Gross, Chief Office of Building Standards and Codes Services
9:20	The SI Metric Units and the Conventions Regarding Their Use in the Construction Industry	Louis Barbrow NBS Metric Information Office
10:00	Coffee Break	
10:30	The NBS Coordinated Metric Dimensions Program	Robert Kapsch, Assistant Chief Office of Building Standards and Codes Services
11:15	Current National and International Activities Relative to Metric Building Standards and Regulations	Charles T. Mahaffey Office of Building Standards and Codes Services
12:00	Adjourn	